

In the Claims:

1. A method for finding a region of high importance in a video, comprising:
finding regions of interest;
assigning pixel values to the pixels within the regions of interest;
constructing groups from the pixels having pixel values; and
merging pixel groups to generate regions of high importance.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein finding the regions of interest includes:
segmenting the video into at least one clip; and
determining a portion of each clip that has a higher than average kinetic energy.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the average kinetic energy is determined using pixel luminance values.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein assigning pixel values includes:
assigning each pixel a magnitude within a predetermined range.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the range is zero to one, each pixel assigned a magnitude of one if it has a higher than average magnitude.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein assigning pixel values includes:
quantizing the pixel values as either having a value of zero or one.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein constructing groups includes:

forming a group of neighboring pixels that have a magnitude within a first range.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein neighboring pixels are within 1 pixel from each other.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the first range is a higher than average magnitude.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein merging pixel groups includes:
merging groups of pixels into a larger group in the shape of a predetermined three-dimensional shape.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the predetermined three dimensional shape is a rectangle.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein merging pixel groups includes:
merging groups of pixels that meet a minimum energy density threshold.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein merging pixel groups includes:
merging groups of pixels that meet a minimum volume threshold.